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August 27, 1999


Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket Numbers 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197

I believe the FDA should prohibit the practice of forced molting because it has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the starving hen's immune systems. This poses a risk to public health – as well as seems to me to be inhumane treatment of the hens. Simply putting bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and regulating egg refrigeration temperatures is not enough to protect the public's health.

I understand the FDA was petitioned in April 1998 to ban forced molting. I urge you to grant the petition without further delay.

Thank you.


Steven D. Gruber

98N 1230

C449

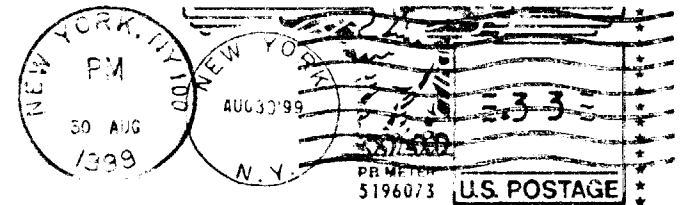


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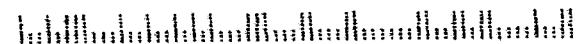
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~~New York, NY 10016~~



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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number:

98N-1230/ C449

See File Number:

97P-0197/ C456

96P-0418/ C449